

Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of Select Board and Board of Health
March 14, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, Hilary Weeks, and Ellen Dupont were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Town of Plainfield's response to COVID-19.

What to Consider

Howard shared that in the FRCOG report there was a note that COVID-19 is now making community transmission and is no longer solely connected to travel transmission. In light of this advancement it is important that we take action now and not wait for further guidance from the State level.

Fire Chief

Fire Chief Dave Alvord stated that he does not feel there is any action needed at the Safety Complex as it is a locked building and is not open to the general public. He feels that his group of people have a good handle on the situation and PVFD meetings will continue as usual.

Broadband Committee

Kimberly Longey is planning to cancel the upcoming Broadband Info & Help Session set for 3/21, 4/4, & 4/18. She will notify the public by email and updated information can be found on the Town website. These will be rescheduled when the timing is appropriate.

Highway Department

Mert Taylor Jr reported that the Highway Crew is comfortable continuing to do their work and have discussed the importance of staying home if they have any symptoms. Winton asked if trucks had been disinfected. Mert said he would wipe down the inside of all the trucks.

Transfer Station

Ellen Dupont feels that the Transfer Station can stay open for regular hours with additional safety precautions such as gloves and hand sanitizer. Signs will be posted at the dump reminding people to practice social distancing.

Church

The Church has made the decision to close for the next 2 weeks and reevaluate then.

Library

Ellen Dupont was concerned about how we could disinfect books checked out and mentioned that the virus lives longer on cardboard and paper according to DPH information. Howard made a motion to close the Library, to the public starting 3/15 and reevaluate in 2 weeks. Winton 2nd the motion. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Town Hall

Discussion about the upcoming activities scheduled in the Town Hall brought about the consideration that some of the activities would be bringing in public from other areas and not just locally. Winton made a motion to close Town Hall to the public until Tue 4/7. Hilary 2nd the motion. Vote in favor was unanimous. Official Town Boards and Committees will still be allowed to meet in the building provided they make a video recording of their meetings available to the public. They also have the option of meeting remotely and are encouraged to cancel upcoming meetings if they are not urgent business.

Town Office

Public parties will be able to conduct business at the Town Office by appointment only, made at the discretion of the office employees. Employees will be given the choice to continue work at Town Office or to work remotely. Winton suggested that employees receive full pay for time off if they are diagnosed with COVID-19. All other public business will be unavailable and reevaluated in 2 weeks.

Caucus, Election, & Annual Town Meeting

There was discussion regarding holding Town Caucus as regularly schedule but in doing so it would eliminate the ability to hold secret ballot. In consideration of the people's privacy in voting we will cancel the upcoming Caucus and Election. When to reschedule these events will be revisited each time we meet. In light of the schedule changes, Winton stated that he will continue to serve on the Board until the election is resolved.

Social Distancing

Social distancing at PUB 116 was mentioned. Ellen has informed PUB 116 of the precautionary information but has had no response as of yet. She also informed Earthdance of the precautions and they acknowledged the information.

Communication

Winton and Mert will compile all pertinent information, regarding closings and

cancellations, and generate a Robocall to the Plainfield Residents. Brian and Kimberly will send a town wide email with the same information and will update the website regularly. Winton will post signs on all Town Buildings and Bulletin Boards.

Howard made a motion for a continuance of this Emergency Meeting on Tue March 17 @ 7pm. Hilary 2nd the motion.

The meeting adjourned for continuance at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Weeks
Select Board Member